NASA ARSET Training

Advanced Webinar on using NASA Remote Sensing for Flood Monitoring and Management March 30, 2016

Introduction to SEDAC

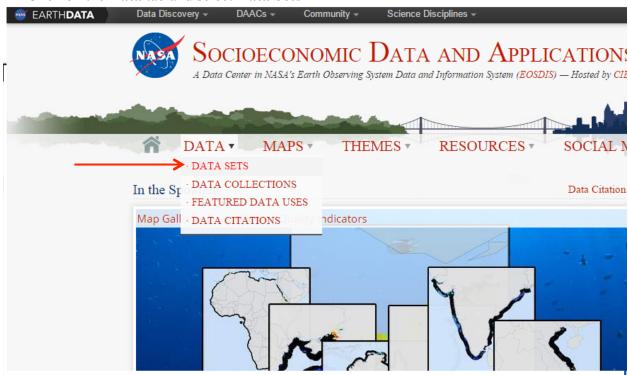
Objective: Locate, download, import and display SEDAC socioeconomic data in QGIS

There are two parts to this exercise:

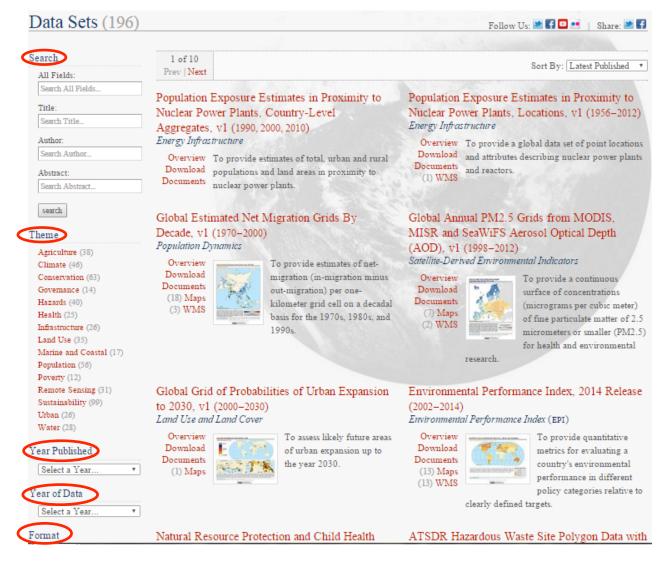
- 1. Access SEDAC socioeconomic data products
- 2. Import and visualize SEDAC data products in QGIS

Part 1: Access SEDAC socioeconomic data products

- Go to the Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) online repository: http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/
- Login using your SEDAC username and password previously created
- Click on the Data tab and select Data Sets



You can then browse the data sets available by using the search feature, selecting a specific theme, the year published, year of data, or format.



We will be downloading two datasets (1) Population Density and (2) Roads.

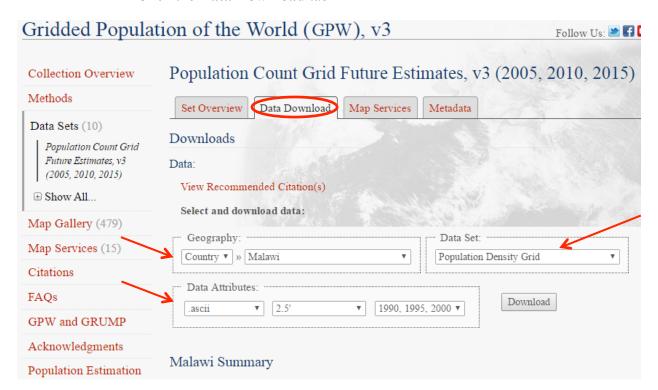
- 1. Population Density:
 - Type in 'population density' in the All Fields search box



- Then click **Next** to go to the **3rd** page of results
- Select the 'Population Density Grid, v3' dataset



- This will bring us to the dataset's page containing information about the data
- Click the Data Download tab



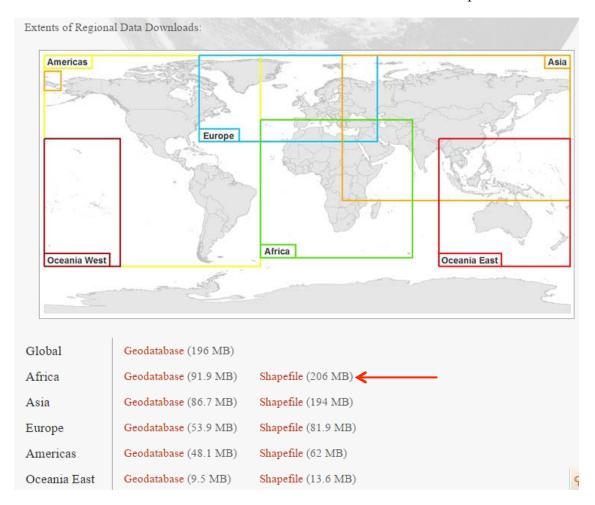
- This page allows users to select subsets of the global data
- Under Geography select Country > Malawi from the dropdown
- Set Data Set to Population Density Grid
- Next select .ascii, 2.5', 1990, 1995, 2000 for the Data Attributes
- Click Download

2. Roads:

- Type in 'roads' in the All Fields search box
- Select the Global Roads Open Access Data Set (gROADS) v1



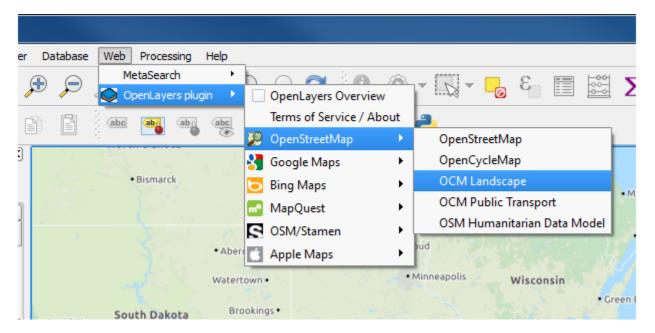
Click on the Data Download tab and scroll down to the map



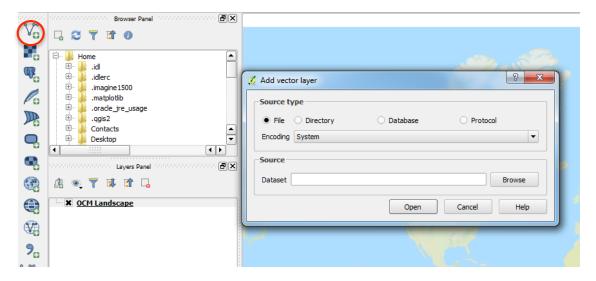
- This will show the extent of each dataset and allow the user to download data by continent
- We will then select the **Africa Shapefile**, this will begin the download

Part 2: Importing and Visualizing SEDAC Data Products in QGIS

- Once the data has finished downloading Extract each folder containing our data from SEDAC
- Open QGIS Desktop
- Load a basemap using the **OpenLayers** plugin and choose a basemap of your choice



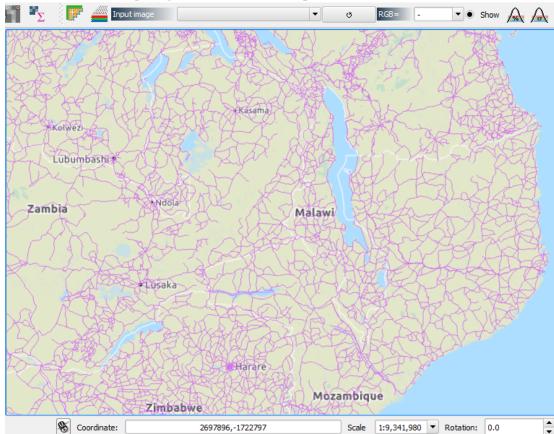
- Next we will add in the roads shapefile we downloaded
- Using the Add Vector Layer icon, click Add Vector



A window will open for you to navigate to the location of the downloaded SEDAC roads data product.

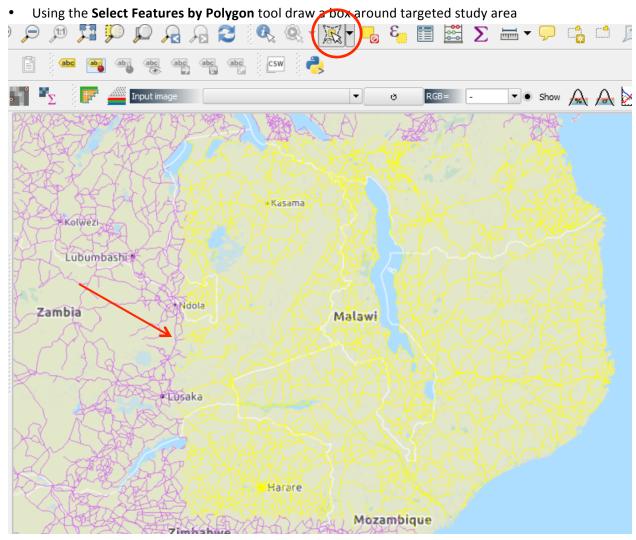
• Select the shapefile '.shp' and click open

o Example: 'gROADS-v1-africa.shp'

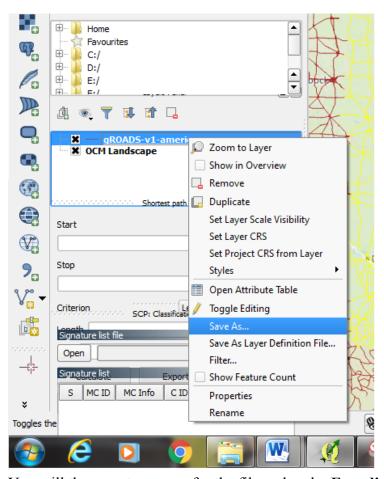


This file contains road data for all of Africa.

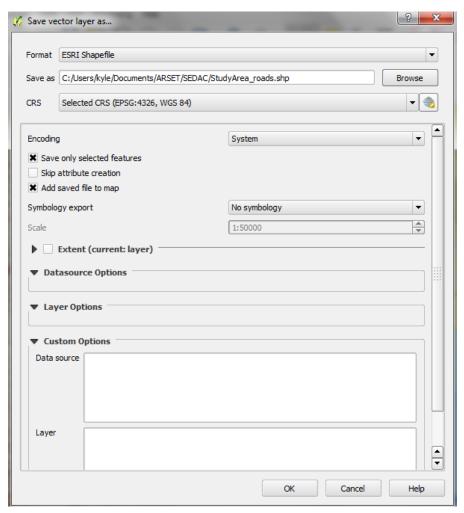
- Zoom in to the study area near Malawi
- Since the file is so large we will want to create a subset of the data so that it only contains information within and around the study area. This will allow the data to load and display faster.



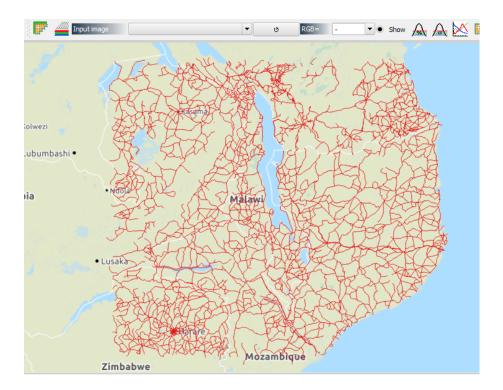
- Once you have created the desired box around the study area **right click** to make the selection. This will highlight the selected area.
- Next, we will create a subset of the Americas road data. **Right click** on the 'gROADS-v1-africa' layer and select Save As.



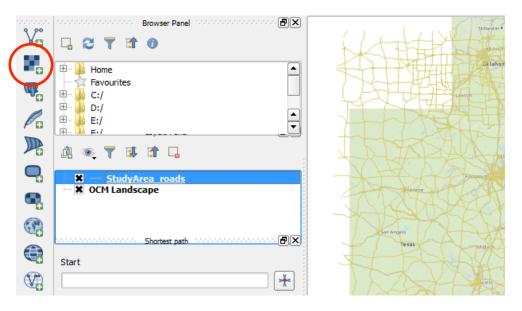
• You will then create a name for the file and under **Encoding** check the 'Save only selected features' box



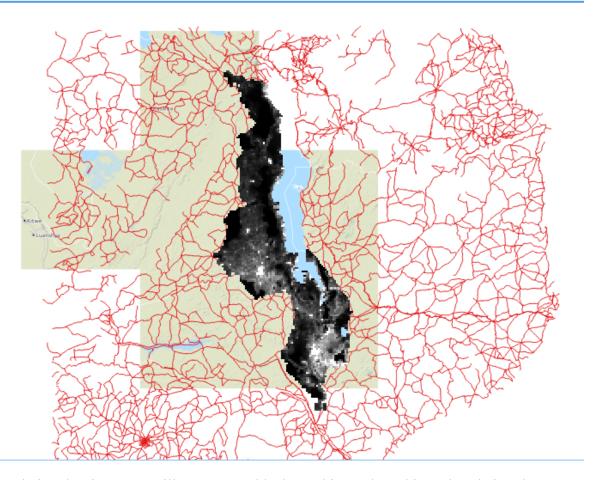
- Click **OK**
- This will create an independent vector file from the selected features. The file will automatically be loaded into the viewer.



 Next we will import the population density data from SEDAC using the Import Raster Layer icon



- You will then browse to the downloaded population density file ending in '.asc' and select open
 - o Example: 'mwids00g.asc'



The population density raster will appear as a black to white scale. White values being the greatest density and black the lowest.

We now have both a roads and population density layer that is clipped to the study area that can be used for further analysis.